

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 SS-15 /116 W

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R 220532 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1538

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS AND BRUSSELS FOR BNDD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NL, US

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: PRESS ARTICLES ON BNDD INVOLVEMENT IN
HEROIN SEIZURE IN AMSTERDAM

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 2331 (B) THE HAGUE 1385 (C) BRUSSELS 1427

1. PROMINENT ARTICLES APPEARED IN TWO WIDELY READ DAILIES
JUNE 20 REPORTING THAT BNDD AGENTS PARTICIPATED IN MARCH 15
ARREST BY AMSTERDAM POLICE OF FIVE CHINESE AND SEIZURE OF 14
KILOS HEROIN (REF C). ARTICLES, REPORTING ON TRIAL WHICH CONCLUDED
JUNE 19, REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON COMMENTS BY DEFENDANTS'
LAWYERS THAT BNDD AGENTS ACTED AS " AGENTS PROVOCATEURS."
ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, DEFENDENTS' LAWYERS SAID TWO
BNDD AGENTS CAME TO THE HAGUE SEEKING CONTACT WITH MEMBERS
OF LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY AND ASKED IF LATTER KNEW WHERE
HEROIN COULD BE PURCHASED. BNDD AGENTS WERE ALLEGEDLY PUT IN
TOUCH WITH ANOTHER CHINESE FROM ROTTERDAM WHO ARRANGED SALE
AND DELIVERY IN AMSTERDAM MARCH 15. AT THAT TIME, ARTICLES GO
ON TO REPORT, AMSTERDAM POLICE " HAPPENDED" TO BE ON SCENE,
MADE ARREST, AND LET BNDD AGENTS " ESCAPE."

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2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLES, GOVT PROSECUTOR PRAISED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS MATTERS, BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT SPECIFICALLY

ADDRESS QUESTION OF BNDD PARTICIPATION IN MARCH 15 ARREST. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR WHO HEARD CASE REPORTEDLY PRAISED DEFENDENTS' LAWYERS FOR RAISING POINT OF " LIKELY IMPROPER PROVOCATION,

BUT THEN SAID COMMUNITY WOULD CRITICIZE POLICE IF THEY DID NOT UTILIZE

SUCH APPROACH. VERDICT IS EXPECTED IN TWO WEEKS. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY PRINCIPAL POINTS OF INTEREST RAISED BY PROSECUTION, DEFENSE, AND PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

3. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA AND JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS, PRIOR TO APPEARANCE OF ABOVE ARTICLES, WE TOOK LINE THAT DEFENDENTS SEIZED ON MARCH 15 TOOK INITIATIVE IN TRANSACTION RESULTING IN THE ARREST AND SEIZURE AND BNDD AGENTS WERE CAREFUL TO AVOID ENTRAPMENT SITUATION. JUSTICE MINISTRY OFFICIALS KNEW ABOUT PLANS FOR MARCH 15 SEIZURE AND RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO MANNER IN WHICH SEIZURE WAS EXECUTED DURING MARCH 23 DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, INTER ALIA, WITH DCM (REF B). WE DO NOT EXPECT THEM TO RAISE OBJECTIONS NOW. SO FAR, WE HAVE HAD NO INQUIRIES AS RESULT OF PRESS REPORTS DESCRIBED ABOVE, BUT WE EXPECT THAT SAME MP' S WHO QUERIED JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT IN MAY ON ALLEGED BNDD " OPERATIONS" IN NETHS WILL DO SO AGAIN AS RESULT OF LATEST STORIES. IN EVENT JUSTICE MINISTRY APPROACHES US FOR INFORMATION IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM BNDD BRUSSELS AND/ OR PARIS ON HOW MARCH 15 TRANSACTION WAS ARRANGED IN COOPERATION WITH AMSTERDAM POLICE. TANGUY

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